

# The Free Press.

ANOTHER CLERICAL SCANDAL.

Failure of the Augustinian Society—The Creditors Mostly Mill Operators.

A despatch from Lawrence, Mass., says: Seven suits have been entered in the Northern Essex Registry of Deeds, attaching all the real estate owned by the Augustinian society of Lawrence, which Rev. C. A. McEvily is supervisor. These suits are to recover money deposited with the savings institution conducted for years by the Augustinians. For years it has been the custom of the Roman Catholic priests in the city to receive deposits from parishioners, issue books therefor, pay interest and assume all the functions of savings banks. This was first done by Father O'Donnell in the early days of the city, about 1846, and has been continued up to the present time. The rate of interest paid has varied from 5 to 7 per cent, and as a consequence, the deposits have been large. Of late the deposits have been received by the Augustinian society, which was incorporated April 8, 1870, for the purpose of taking and holding property, not exacting interest. The Augustinians have a large amount of property was conveyed.

For some time no complaints were heard as to the savings bank department of the society, but since Jan. 1, 1881, when Rev. P. G. Gilmore, who had been head of the order for many years, was succeeded in his office, it was discovered that he was ill-health, and was succeeded by Rev. P. Hogan, there has been much trouble experienced by depositors, many of whom have left the city, in obtaining their money, and in several instances claims have been filed against the society for the amount due. The society began selling real estate and since that time disposed of property to the amount of \$70,932, including two sales by the St. Mary's Free Educational Institute, for boys and girls, affected by the fire at this, some of which obtained from the Essex Savings Bank, by mortgage on the new St. Mary's church, the parochial residence and adjoining property, \$70,000, and from the City Institution for Savings at Lowell \$20,000, which is secured by mortgage on the old church.

The society has not commercial paper, about the renewal of which there lately has been some trouble. Last week a meeting of depositors was held, notice of it having been given from the church the previous day, and they were not told where it was to meet, nor were they told that the society would be unable to pay the depositors at the rate of \$25,000 per year. The total indebtedness of the society is \$430,000, of which \$430,000 is due depositors in their savings institution, and the church property is mortgaged for over \$10,000.

The number of depositors is placed at seven hundred, the majority of them being poor female mill operatives.

It is generally believed that the trouble is not of recent origin, but has been growing slowly for years, each succeeding year plugging the society deeper in debt. It is thought that the society, in order to secure first priests in the city, invested funds obtained with him in railroad stock, paying therefor \$30,000, and after holding it 8 years its value had so depreciated that he was obliged to dispose of it for \$11,000.

The managers of the society propose to pay the sum of \$10,000 annually principal without interest, and suspend the parochial schools, which have been expense of \$10,000 annually. Great excitement prevails among the depositors, who are principally poor house girls and factory operatives.

**What the Priests Promise.**

LAWRENCE, Mass., Feb. 25.—The Catholic churches under the control of the Augustinian Fathers, were crowded at each service today, it being expected that the priests would refer to the collapse of the savings institutions. At St. Mary's church, Rev. McEvily, superior of the American branch of the Augustinian order, said no proposal soon to give a detailed statement of the church finances. The society would leave nothing unpaid, and if obliged to do so, would contribute to the maintenance of the church property, a comparatively slight inconvenience. The only matter for serious consideration was the rest of the depts. He said the society's indebtedness was between four and five hundred thousand dollars, which it had brought from the other in their churches and temples in Lawrence and Methuen with extra charges for a loan to meet the financial obligations it had to meet the financial obligations in a few years. He expressed the utmost confidence that the Catholics of Lawrence would subscribe according to their means to meet the financial obligations. The society would see that the priests did not suffer. He urged his hearers to be patient, and the society would pay them all.

**Rev. Mr. S. C. H. Scheller Indicted.**

On Charge of Burning the Newhall House.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Feb. 26.—The grand jury have indicted Scheller, the former lessor of the bar-room of the Newhall House, for arson. The indictment charged the prosecutor with setting fire to and burning the Newhall House the night of January 10th, causing the death of a number of persons. The charge was based upon an immediate arrears of rent, and his taking to the court almost unopposed. He pleaded guilty and was recommended. The grand jury are still considering the responsibility of the owners and manager of the hotel. It is believed that indictments for manslaughter will be returned against Nash, Attwells and the night clerk, Delaney.

**What Chandler Says.**

Secretary Chandler says that Gorringe is an excitable, irritable and insular-like officer, who sought notoriety in assailing his superiors.

**Constitutional Cough Syrup.**

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